SASKATOON metro®

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Even virtual worlds aren't safe from NSA

Intelligence operations are spying on gamers: Reports PAGE 6

Doc a Blue Jay again for a day

Veteran ace pitcher Roy Halladay signs a one-day contract to retire with Toronto PAGE 14

NOTE TO SELF: LEAVE AIRING OF GRIEVANCES FOR FESTIVUS

HOW TO SHINE AT YOUR OFFICE HOLIDAY PARTY PAGE 13

Pro-European Union activists stand with their backs towards police, in front of the police line to prevent provocations near the Independence Square in Kyiv on Monday. Hundreds of police in full riot gear flooded into the centre of the city on Monday as mass anti-government protests gripped the Ukrainian capital for yet another week, raising fears of an imminent crackdown. Inset: An activist tent camp is seen on Independence Square on Monday. More on page 3. SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Simmering Kyiv protests worry Sask. Ukrainians

Government under fire. Tension building in capital city with presence of riot police; barricades, tent camps being dismantled

MORGAN MODJESKI
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Members of Saskatchewan's Ukrainian community are concerned that protests in their homeland's capital city of Kyiv could turn to mass violence.

On Monday, hundreds of police in riot gear encircled and dismantled some of the tent camps and barricades erected by anti-government protesters in Kyiv, where hundreds of thousands of people have gathered in demonstration against Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych.

Yanukovych is facing criticism for a decision to shelve a treaty with the European Union to focus on ties with Russia, a choice that has divided the nation of 46 million.

"There are a number of people — a lot of people — that are concerned with the situation," said Danylo Puderak, executive director of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress's Saskatchewan Provincial Council.

"In recent years, we've had families moving to Saskatchewan from Ukraine and these are the people who have immediate family living there, so they're quite concerned for their safety."

While demonstrations in Kyiv have remained fairly peaceful, Puderak said, he's heard from friends in Ukraine that pressure is building.

"There's a lot of tension," he said. "We don't want to overdramatize it, because we're talking about the lives of innocent protesters who are there to make an important political statement … but there's certainly that undercurrent — that fear — that things could take a turn for the worse."

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird put support behind the demonstrators during a recent visit to Ukraine, saying Canada is "deeply disappointed" with the government's choice to stop groundwork for the signing of the EU treaty.

"The clear signals of the Ukrainian people have been broadcast around the world and the most concerning and disappointing aspect has been the government's reaction to these peaceful protests," Baird said in a statement. "We will continue to stand with those Ukrainians that believe in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law."

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

NEWS 1

Hard road ahead for U of S after release of new reports

Budget cuts.
President is confident the school will achieve financial stability, but concedes the process 'will be painful'

JACOB MORGAN
jacob.morgan@metronews.ca

Faculty and students at the University of Saskatchewan are in for some major changes.

Nearly one year after the U of S announced its TransformUS budget-trimming initiative, two reports were made public Monday prioritizing all academic and support services.

U of S president Ilene Busch-Vishniac said she is considering all recommendations in the documents, as well as input from the community, before coming up with an implementation plan by the end of April.

"We have a group of people that are absolutely committed to modelling what a financially sustainable university can look like," said Busch-Vishniac. "I am confident we will get there. I am also well aware that it will be painful."

On the web

For more on this story visit metronews.ca.

The goal is to cut about $25 million off the university's operating costs, which means some academic programs and administrative departments will be eliminated altogether.

"There will certainly be some jobs lost, but at this point it is too early for us to tell you where and how many," said Busch-Vishniac.

One issue the support services report seeks to address is an overinflated bureaucracy.

Busch-Vishniac said that every dollar spent on management detracts from the university's core missions of teaching and learning.

Meanwhile, the academic report emphasizes the importance of research and targeting graduate and doctoral students.

"The University of Saskatchewan is one of the most research-intensive universities in Canada," said Busch-Vishniac.

"It comes with the expectation that we are aiming to be world leaders in the areas in which we focus our research."

Ilene Busch-Vishniac, president of the University of Saskatchewan, sits in her office on Monday morning after the TransformUS reports were made public. JACOB MORGAN/METRO

While this could mean certain undergraduate programs such as three-year degrees will be negatively affected, she guaranteed that those currently enrolled still have the opportunity to graduate. "That is the promise we've made to every student," she said.

Homeless shelters feeling the cold crunch

Martin McCarter
SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

More emergency shelter beds have opened across Saskatchewan as the province settles into a deep freeze, though some officials say there might be a need for even more to help the homeless weather the biting cold.

Some homeless have taken refuge at various emergency shelters in Regina, Saskatoon and elsewhere due to temperatures dropping below -30 C in the past week — and according to Environment Canada, the cold is not letting up very much.

"If this weather we've had in the past week persists, I'm sure we'll need to look at other possibilities to deal with some of these issues," said Martin McCarter, executive director of Salvation Army Regina's Waterston Centre.

Waterston Centre, which has only male clients, recently added 20 beds to its emergency shelter. In less than two weeks, all 52 of its beds were occupied. Waterston also has eight beds for overcapacity nights and 15 other "extreme-weather" beds.

In Saskatoon, Salvation Army's Mumford House has 36 beds for women and children, while its Men's Hostel has 63 regular beds with 10 more for overflow. Both are already at capacity.

"It's a very dangerous time. You can freeze to death fairly quickly," said Saskatoon Salvation Army executive director Malba Holliday.

"Even if we're full, we would always make space for those who need it."

SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO, WITH FILES FROM MORGAN MODJESKI

Up next: UFC and golf?

Tourism agency has big plans for event-hosting

After one of its busiest years, Tourism Saskatchewan is launching an event-hosting strategy and seeking more funding to further boost tourism in the province.

The strategy, which provides stakeholders with mentoring and assistance for promotions and financing, was unveiled at a tourism conference on Monday.

"The Grey Cup has capped off a remarkable year for events in Saskatchewan, which included the Junos and the Memorial Cup," said Tim McMillan, the minister responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan, at the announcement at a downtown Regina hotel.

"This plan will help ... ensure Saskatchewan will remain the best spot in Canada to host events."

Through the plan, communities and committees are eligible to apply in four program categories: community annual events, marquee annual events, national and international events, and special tourism projects.

"This strategy is the first step, and in the budget that comes out in the spring we'll be building up on this," McMillan said, referring to the province's spending blueprint to be unveiled in March.

With $800,000 spent on hosting events this year and last month's Grey Cup festivities alone bringing $123 million to the province, Tourism Saskatchewan CEO Pat Fiacco said his agency will ride that momentum at budget time.

"We just came off a very, very big year ... and it's safe to say that we're going to be requesting a bit more," Fiacco said of the provincial funding.

It will be a challenge to top this year, he said, adding that communities have been in contact to plan more events.

Fiacco noted that they're seeking to bring golf tournaments and UFC events to Saskatchewan.

SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

Ukrainian chairman of the opposition party Udar and WBC heavyweight boxing champion Vitali Klitschko, surrounded by police, tries to stop possible clashes between police and pro-European Union activists in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Monday. Hundreds of police in full riot gear on Monday flooded key sites of mass anti-government protests. EFREM LUKATSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police move in on Kyiv protests

Tensions mounting. Opposition says its offices were raided; police deployed near protesters

Heavily armed riot troops broke into the offices of a top Ukrainian opposition party office in Kyiv and seized its servers Monday, the party said, as anti-government protests crippled the capital for yet another day.

Elsewhere police dismantled or blocked off several small protest tent camps near key national government buildings in the city.

Tensions also rose as a double cordon of helmeted, shield-holding police deployed in the street near Kyiv's city administration building, which demonstrators had occupied and turned into a makeshift command post and dormitory.

The moves came a day after hundreds of thousands of demonstrators crammed into Kyiv, the biggest in three weeks of protests that started when Ukraine's president backed away from signing a long-awaited pact to deepen ties with the European Union.

Protesters are angered not only by the thwarting of their desire to become closer to the West and spin out of Russia's orbit, but by police violence against the demonstrators. Club-swinging police have twice broken up protest rallies.

Ostap Semerak, a member of the Fatherland Party, said that troops broke into the party's offices on Monday evening, some climbing in through its windows.

"They are storming us. The images are insane," he said by telephone.

The troops left after confiscating some computer equipment, he said.

Party member Marina Soroka also said the troops surrounded and blockaded several opposition-minded Ukrainian media outlets, making their and other media websites inaccessible. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MP files complaint against senator's 'misogynistic attack'

A New Democrat MP has formally lodged a complaint against a Conservative senator for what she describes as a condescending, "misogynistic," personal attack against her.

Charmaine Borg has asked the Speaker of the House of Commons to rule that her ability to do her job as an MP was impeded by a letter sent to her last week from Sen. Jean-Guy Dagenais.

In the letter, which was copied to all MPs, senators and their staff, Dagenais characterized Borg as a whiny, ignorant, useless Quebec MP who was elected by fluke and stands little chance of being re-elected.

Dagenais' letter was sent in response to a flyer Borg sent out in her riding advocating the NDP's long-held belief that the Senate should be abolished.

NDP MP Charmaine Borg
SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Borg says she was particularly insulted by Dagenais' suggestion that she should get some books from the parliamentary library to inform herself about the Senate before criticizing the institution.

Borg, who is 23 years old, says that's the kind of "old-school mentality" that discourages young women from entering politics.

"The overall tone of this letter suggests that I am simply a little girl who does not take her work seriously," Borg told the Commons on Monday.

Outside the chamber, Borg called the tone "very misogynistic," and added: "I think if I was an old white man, he wouldn't have attacked me."

The Speaker did not rule immediately on Borg's question of privilege.

In an interview last week, Dagenais said his letter is part of a campaign by some Conservative senators to defend themselves and their institution after taking a year-long drubbing over the Senate expenses scandal.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

G20 protests

Cop gets 45 days for assaulting protester

A Toronto police officer convicted of assaulting a protester during the G20 summit was sentenced Monday to 45 days in jail.

Const. Babak Andalib-Goortani was convicted in September of assault with a weapon for using excessive force during the arrest of protester Adam Nobody on June 26, 2010, on the lawn of the Ontario legislature.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Border battle. Canada submits North Pole claim

Canada says it will try to extend its territorial claims in the Arctic to include the North Pole, although it hasn't yet fully mapped the area, doesn't have the scientific evidence to back the claim and faces major diplomatic hurdles.

A formal scientific submission was made to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf last week covering 1.2 million square kilometres of territorial claims in the Atlantic, but the government says the material submitted for the Arctic Ocean is only preliminary.

Despite saying two years ago that data collection was complete, the federal government plans to send its scientists back into the field for more work mapping the Lomonosov Ridge, a giant undersea mountain range, which Ottawa says could secure the North Pole for Canada.

Arctic experts say that other countries can also argue that the range extends from their shores. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Did you know 72% of pain sufferers regularly have trouble sleeping?
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TYLENOL NIGHTTIME

A Christian man chases a suspected Seleka officer with a knife in Bangui, Central African Republic, Monday. Christian and Muslim mobs have amplified the violence, going on lynching sprees last week. JEROME DELAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Violence in Central African Republic

Sectarian conflict.
400 died last week in two days of fighting between Christians and Muslims

Dozens of young men stood waiting for storm clouds to pass in Central African Republic's capital. They spotted a man in a flowing white robe traditionally worn by Muslims, hand-in-hand with his adolescent son.

Hungry for revenge, the crowd descended upon the pair. The man's terrified son broke away and fled on foot, abandoning his father as the knife-wielding mob clutched the middle-aged man.

Muslim rebels known as Seleka overthrew the government of this majority Christian nation nine months ago, sparking mounting sectarian violence that prompted former colonizer France last week to deploy troops to Bangui in an effort to stop the bloodshed.

In a city where more than 400 people died last week in two days of tit-for-tat violence between Christians and Muslims, it was clear Monday there is still enough pent-up rage left that a crowd will try to kill a man on sight.

In this case, French forces intervened just in time, firing into the air as a warning. Other Muslims were not as fortunate. In the Benzvi neighbourhood, a mob descended upon two ex-Seleka leaders leaving their home Monday afternoon. One got away. The crowd took up the only weapons they had against the other, witnesses said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"After the French leave, things will explode."

Abdel Wahid, Central African Republic resident and Muslim

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Early election not enough for angry Thai protesters

Desperate to defuse Thailand's deepening political crisis, Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra dissolved Parliament's lower house on Monday and called early elections. But protesters seeking to topple her vowed to carry on their fight, saying they cannot win the polls because of corruption.

A decree from King Bhumibol Adulyadej scheduled the elections on Feb. 2 and named Yingluck as interim prime minister until then. The protesters demanded that she resign as caretaker and rejected the election date, putting the strongly royalist movement at odds with the royal decree.

Protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban, who faces an arrest warrant on insurrection charges, spoke to more than 150,000 followers at a stage outside Yingluck's offices, challenging authorities to "Come get me!" He claimed that his movement was assuming some functions of government, citing a clause in the constitution stating that "the highest power is the sovereign power of the people."

He said a new prime minister and a non-elected "people's council" — which has no basis in the constitution — would work to end corruption in politics and keep Yingluck and her brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, from returning to power.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anti-government protesters outside the Thai prime minister's office in Bangkok on Monday. MANISH SWARUP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Duel for power

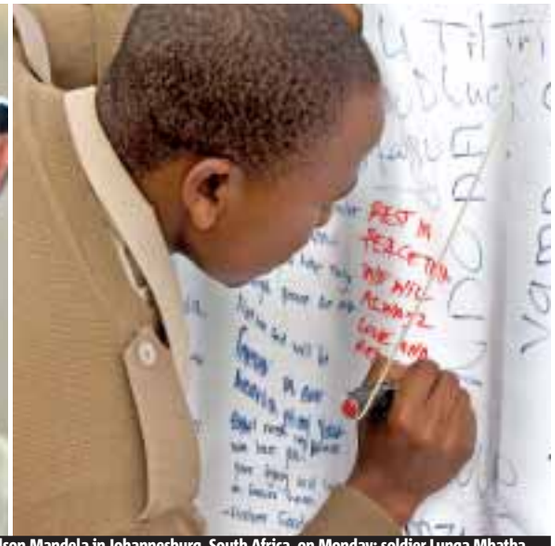
The opposition Democratic party, allied with the protest movement, has been defeated by Thaksin Shinawatra-allied parties in every election since 2001, and is unlikely to win the new polls.

- Thaksin, a former telecommunications billionaire, was toppled by a 2006 military coup that laid bare a deeper conflict between Thailand's elite and the largely urban middle class on one side, and Thaksin's power base in the countryside on the other. That base benefited from his populist policies designed to win over the rural poor.
- The two sides have been duelling for power, sometimes violently, since Thaksin was ousted for alleged corruption and abuse of power.

Search for survivors of train crash tragedy

Rescuers search for victims in the wreckage of a commuter train that was derailed after it collided with a fuel tanker truck on the outskirts of Jakarta, Indonesia, on Monday. The accident killed the train engineer, his assistant, a technician and two female passengers, Jakarta police said. Nearly 100 people were injured.

TATAN SYUFLANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mac Arthur Mti, left, wears badges for sale with the image of late president Nelson Mandela in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Monday; soldier Lunga Mbatha, right, writes a message for Mandela reading "Rest in peace Tata (father) we will always love and remember you." MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Africa set for Mandela memorial

In mourning. World leaders to eulogize anti-apartheid icon

South Africa prepared Monday for a massive memorial in a soccer stadium honouring Nelson Mandela, where an eclectic mix of world leaders will eulogize the anti-apartheid icon before a crowd of nearly 100,000 mourners.

As a prelude to the stadium event, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and retired Archbishop Desmond Tutu spoke at an event at the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory Monday night.

"What a fantastic gift God gave to us in this Mandela, who quickly became an icon, a global icon of forgiveness, of generosity of spirit," Tutu said.

At the Soweto stadium where Mandela made his last public appearance at the 2010 World Cup, workers busily constructed a stage protected by bulletproof glass for Tuesday's memorial.

Nearly 100 heads of state are expected at the 95,000-capacity FNB Stadium, where some mourners are already camped out to be the first ones inside.

A program released by the South African government showed U.S. President Barack Obama would speak, as would Ban and Chinese Vice-President Li Yuanchao. South African President Jacob Zuma will give the keynote address.

Mandela died Thursday at age 95. After the stadium memorial on Tuesday, Mandela's body will lie in state at the Union Buildings, the seat of government in South Africa's capital, Pretoria, from Wednesday to Friday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Security still a concern

Police promised "thousands" of officers would secure the stadium, though security appeared lax Monday.

- Lt. Gen. Solomon Makgale, a spokesman for the South African Police Service, said a joint taskforce of police, diplomats and intelligence service personnel have been making plans and talking to the foreign delegations who plan to attend the ceremony.

Canadian delegation arrives

Workers rush to prepare for memorial

Clouds hung over Johannesburg as a Canadian delegation arrived Monday to be part of the massive outpouring of grief and celebration following the death of Nelson Mandela.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper smiled and waved to a small gathering of South African and Canadian diplomatic officials as he stepped out of his plane onto a tarmac at Air Force Base Waterkloof, north of the city itself.

As the Canadian delegation made their way into the city, crews were still constructing the stage that will form the centre of what is expected to be a huge memorial for Mandela on Tuesday.

The Canadians flew for 18 hours to witness a country both suffering the pain of losing a world-renowned leader and swelling with the pride of having had him as president.

Harper will be joined at the memorial by former prime ministers Brian Mulroney, Jean Chrétien, Joe Clark and Kim Campbell.

"He had a wonderful sense of humour and the most magnificent smile," Mulroney said as he recalled many private meetings with Mandela.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks with former prime ministers Brian Mulroney, left, Kim Campbell and Jean Chrétien on a government plane travelling to South Africa on Sunday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

In the 1980s, Mulroney made Canada a key player in the struggle against the apartheid regime that had imprisoned Mandela for 27 years. Chrétien followed up years later when his Liberal government made Mandela an honorary Canadian citizen, a symbol of Canada's respect for the man that still holds today.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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STUFF THE BUS!

Saskatoon Transit's is again participating in Stuff the Bus in support of the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre. On Friday December 13th bring your non-perishable food donations to the Saskatoon Co-op. We'll be at the 8th Street and Attridge Drive locations from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m.

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Selfie simulacrum: The scanned 3D self

Whether in a revolution, crime scene or dinner party, the selfie — Oxford Dictionary's word of the year — is an essential souvenir. British art student Lorna Barnshaw has taken the craze a step further with her 'Replicants' project, capturing herself with the most advanced scanners and 3D printing herself in full size.

Lorna Barnshaw's 3D selfie. LORNA BARNSHAW

I read that you wanted to recreate reality. How close did you come?

Not very close, because the scanners create glitches, so this is more about showing where the technology is at the moment. I tried to step back and let the machines do the work but they struggled at times and couldn't get the back of the head right.

I tried all the available options but you can't recreate natural lighting so the face appears lifeless and cold. With photos you can see emotion in a real-life environment. In a way this is what happens to us as we adapt and integrate with technology.

What does this say about human immersion in technology?

It's very strong and you can see that already with printed body parts and the augmented reality we can access. It's both exciting and scary, because technology has glitches. We are always trying to perfect it, but never satisfied.

Does the selfie craze prove we are all hopeless narcissists now?

It's about documentation of everything in life and gives you the appearance of control in it. We can create mirrors wherever we go.

What might you do with your replicant?

I'm sure it would make a good alibi.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Reading makes you more empathetic.
But you already knew we felt that way.
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Hockey beats Crackgate

Leafs bodycheck Rob Ford off top of Facebook list

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford made headlines around the world but his antics didn't top Facebook Canada's list of the year's top topics. The Toronto Maple Leafs generated the most chatter, followed by the Harlem Shake dance craze, Miley Cyrus's infamous twerk, the Boston Marathon bombing and Ford, who came in fifth.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

2008 VP hopeful

You betcha, Palin's trying to stay in the limelight

The Sportsman Channel said Monday it has hired Sarah Palin to be host of a weekly outdoors-oriented program that will celebrate the "red, wild and blue" lifestyle. The program, Amazing America, will debut next April. The Sportsman Channel is in some 32 million homes, less than one-third of U.S. households with TV. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 94.03¢ (+0.19¢)

TSX 13,312.78 (+32.06)

OIL $97.34 (-$0.31)

GOLD $1,234.20 (+$5.20)

Natural gas: $4.24 US (+$0.9)
Dow Jones: 16,025.53 (+5.33)

Gamers play a game on the Xbox One console during the Electronics Expo 2013 in June in Los Angeles. New reports reveal American and British intelligence operations were spying on gamers. KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Spy agencies kept an eye on fantasy gamers: NSA leaks

Reports. Documents leaked by Edward Snowden reveal U.S., U.K. monitored online games

American and British intelligence operations have been spying on gamers across the world, media outlets reported, saying that the world's most powerful espionage agencies sent undercover agents into virtual universes to monitor activity in online fantasy games such as World of Warcraft.

Stories carried Monday by The New York Times, the Guardian, and ProPublica said U.S. and U.K. spies have spent years trawling online games for terrorists or informants. The stories, based on documents leaked by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden, offer an unusual take on America's world-spanning surveillance campaign, suggesting that even the fantasy worlds popular with children, teens, and escapists of all ages aren't beyond the attention of the NSA and its British counterpart, GCHQ.

Spy agencies have long worried that such games serve as a good cover for terrorists or other evildoers who could use in-game messaging systems to swap info. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Open letter to Obama

Major technology companies, stung by revelations that the U.S. government collects people's personal data on their networks, on Monday issued an open letter to U.S. President Barack Obama asking for tighter controls on surveillance.

- As part of a global campaign to reform data collection, Google, Facebook, Apple and others said concerns over national security should be weighed against individual rights.

CAN WE DROP THE REAL WOMAN CLICHÉ?

SHE SAYS

Jessica Napier
metronews.ca

Last week a stranger asked me if I was expecting; I am not even remotely pregnant, although perhaps this is a sign I should lay off the boxes of holiday chocolates.

It was a harmless mistake I suppose — I think I was resting my hand on my stomach in a suggestive manner — but the incident did get me thinking about our willingness to comment so freely on other people's bodies, despite how inappropriate it might seem.

Bodies, especially female ones, are constantly in the public discourse. Fitness blogger Maria Kang (a.k.a. Fit Mom) caused quite a stir recently after posting a photo on her Facebook page in which she is flaunting her toned abs while surrounded by her three children and posing the question, "What's your excuse?"

Kang's narcissism and her finger-pointing at mothers who might try to justify a few pounds of leftover baby weight clearly didn't sit well with many individuals. And her follow up 'Sorry, I'm not sorry' faux-apologies didn't win her any fans either.

Last week, Kang wrote a piece for Time magazine denouncing what she refers to as "the fat acceptance movement" and arguing that "fit women are real women, too." While her self-righteous, fat-shaming irks me, it's her usage of the "real women" cliché that really gets under my skin.

I am a real woman. I eat a salad every single day for lunch and work out on a regular basis. I also really enjoy pizza and doughnuts. I don't believe in Kate Moss' motto that "nothing tastes as good as skinny feels" because hip bones are never going to be as important to me as artisanal cheeses. But that's just me.

Kate Moss is also a "real" woman and yes, so is Maria Kang — although it's worth noting these particular women often have a little help from Photoshop in their public photos. It's problematic to suggest that some women are more authentic than others.

Not all "real women" have curves and yet we can't seem to escape these sorts of absolutist expressions. Leggy, six-feet-tall supermodels with high cheekbones are still actual human beings — no matter how genetically impossible they might seem.

Some people applaud initiatives such as Dove's Real Beauty campaign that try and put "normal" women front and centre in the media, but I have a hard time getting on board with it. Of course I want to see a variety of bodies in mainstream advertising, but labelling them as "real" is just patronizing. Dove might be lauded for their efforts to include a diversity of models in their ads, but the message still elevates appearance over all other human qualities — which is probably understandable since at the end of the day they're still hawking body wash.

I'd love it if we could all stop using the "real women" cliché whenever we talk about bodies that deviate even slightly from the North American beauty ideal. All women, no matter their shape or BMI, are in fact "real" unless they come with a portable inflation pump.

Follow Jessica Napier on Twitter @MetroSheSays

ZOOM

Cockroach species turns up in NYC

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Invasive insect can withstand winter

The High Line, a park that turned a dilapidated stretch of elevated railway on Manhattan's West Side into one of New York's newest tourist attractions, may have brought a different kind of visitor: A cockroach (pictured) that can withstand harsh, cold winter and has never been seen before in the U.S.

Rutgers University insect biologists Jessica Ware and Dominic Evangelista said the species Periplaneta japonica is well documented in Asia but was never confirmed in the U.S. until now. The scientists, whose findings were published in the Journal of Economic Entomology, say it is too soon to predict the impact but that there is probably little cause for concern.

The newcomer was first spotted in New York in 2012, by an exterminator.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Critter versus critter

"Because this species is very similar to cockroach species that already exist in the urban environment, they likely will compete with each other for space and for food."

Dominic Evangelista, Rutgers University insect biologist
Competition will likely keep the population low, because more time and energy spent competing means less time and energy to devote to reproduction.

No super species hybrid

- The scientists suspect the critter was likely a stowaway in the soil of ornamental plants used to adorn the park.
- The likelihood that the new species will mate with the locals is slim, Evangelista says because "The male and female genitalia fit together like a lock and key, and that differs by species."

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

With Kickstarter and Indiegogo leading the way helping thousands of cash-strapped projects get off the ground, it's easy for niche projects to go unnoticed.

ISTOCK IMAGES

Not to worry entrepreneurial musicians, gamers and business-folk. You too can get your piece of the pie — you just have to know where to look.

Gambitious:
With pages and pages of gaming projects (video, board, cards, you name it) on mainstream crowdfunding sites, it didn't take a genius to see where the coveted crowd cash lies. Gambitious unites game developers, investors and players to make these games happen.

Rock The Post:
Hobby projects need not apply. Rock The Post's niche is revenue-generating business and rejects about 90 per cent of applicants. So, if you just want a bit of cash so you can take your band and hit the road, this might not be for you (but there's hope, keep reading).

GigFunder:
Didn't get that artists' grant? GigFunder tries to help touring musicians fund their road trips. (Warning: Haven't seen too many successful campaigns to date.)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Tamagotchi, a 90s electronic pet, will come back in 2014. What other toys should — or shouldn't — return?

@ColinHFX: MOON. SHOES.

@nicoleblancPR: SkipIts! Those things are a hazard!

@strangerob: I pity the store clerks who will have to deal with these damn things & the angry parents.

@turdwrastler: bring back lawn darts

@_J_T_V_: THE JOCK JAMS CD SERIES

@ArCowx: I still have mine!

@SmashSays: @VivienLily Should I preorder you one? Haha

@QRefProblems: Fraggles

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metro

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SCENE 2

DVD review

Fast & Furious 6

Director. Justin Lin

Stars. Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson

●●●○○

The recent tragic car crash death of Paul Walker makes Fast & Furious 6 the last possible film with one of its original main co-stars. It's one of the better sequels — meaning action-packed — of this 12-year-old franchise. Directed once again by a steadily improving Justin Lin (he also helmed chapters 3, 4 and 5), the film reunites the ol' gang of hot wheelers just when they think they've made it to early retirement. Walker's Brian O'Conner and Vin Diesel's Dominic Toretto are obliged to put down their pina coladas and rev their engines for a predictably ridiculous story about stopping a badass band of mercenary drivers. Joining the fray are Dwayne Johnson, Michelle Rodriguez, Jordana Brewster, Tyrese Gibson, Sung Kang and Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, plus new faces Gina Carano and Luke Evans. Will you believe that a sports car can speed out of a crashing cargo jet? No, but it's fun to watch, although you may get misty-eyed over the scenes involving Walker. Extras included: deleted scenes, an extended version of the film, a director's commentary and making-of featurettes.

PETER HOWELL

Sounds for the season

If you've been to the mall recently, you know it's beginning to sound a lot like Christmas. We understand if you've hit Jingle Bell Rock-bottom, but if you haven't, here are some festive sound suggestions.

PAT HEALY
Metro World News in Boston

Wrapped in Red: Kelly Clarkson

Listening to the first three songs on Kelly Clarkson's new holiday release is a lot like getting a detailed Christmas card from a good friend who you haven't thought of in a while. It's one part "Oh, hey, so that's what you've been up to" and one part "Oh, right, this is why I like you!" But if you keep listening it's a little bit like hanging out with that old friend for a long weekend. You get traces of "Oh yeah, that's what kinda always bugged me about you." Yes, her voice is every bit as remarkable as it was when she won the first American Idol. The highlight may actually be an original song, Winter Dreams (Brandon's Song), which she wrote for her husband.

A Mary Christmas: Mary J. Blige

Upon first glance, this album looks like such a no-brainer that you wonder why this didn't happen way sooner. Mary's soulful voice and that punny title are holiday gold, right? Not quite. Mary does sound great, but pianist and producer David Foster — best known for creating the Celine Dion sound and the Josh Groban sound — gives the whole collection too much of the Celine Dion sound and the Josh Groban sound. Maybe this compilation really should have happened sooner, and without David Foster.

Duck the Halls: The Robertsons

My initial reaction to any musical output from the family behind Duck Dynasty is one of "who let this happen?" But the weird thing is, it's actually pretty good. Kicking off with Ragin' Cajun Redneck Christmas, a song that Willie Robertson actually co-wrote, is a rootin' tootin' good time. Sure, they have plenty of hired hands from the country music genre helping out, but this is a fun album. Sadie and Uncle Si can't really sing and there are lyrics like "We bought every string of lights Walmart had" and "Like Jesus and Santa Claus, we've got love behind these beards" (in the same song!), but it's full of goofy cheer for anybody who always wanted to hear a follow-up single to Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer.

Psych-Out Christmas: Various Artists

The album cover features Santa with a spliff in his mouth, so it's no stretch to say this 17-song compilation is a real trip. It's contemporary psychedelic indie acts like Psychic Ills and Quintron and Miss Pussycat alongside veterans like Iggy Pop, providing mostly sincere — if not a little hazy — takes on holiday classics. Sleepy Sun's re-imagining of What Child is This? is so epic you'll feel as high as the star (or angel) atop your tree and want to see the figurines of the nativity set rocking out to it.

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City of Saskatoon
For more information, visit www.saskatoon.ca and look under 'A' for Animal Services.
ANIMAL SERVICES

Kanye West ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

All quiet on the West front: Kanye wants you to know his tour is war zone-tough

Kanye West isn't sure everyone appreciates how dangerous his current tour is. "Like, I'm just giving off my body on the stage. I'm putting my life at risk, literally," West says in an interview with SaturdayNightOnline.com, citing some of the precarious set pieces involved in the live show. "And I think about it. I think about my family and I'm like, wow, this is like being a police officer or something, in a war or something. Like you're literally going out to do your job every day, knowing that something could happen. Something can happen to you."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Could Miley be the Person of the Year?

PAT HEALY
Metro World News

Time magazine's managing editor Nancy Gibbs announced the shortlist for Person of the Year on the Today show yesterday and one inclusion may surprise you: Miley Cyrus.

Yes, the person most famous for twerking all over our TV screens is in the running with President Obama, Pope Francis, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, Syria's President Bashar Assad, Iran's President Hassan Rouhani, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, Edward Snowden and gay rights activist Edith Windsor for the title.

"Power is not just political. It can be cultural, it can be spiritual. She came in like a wrecking ball, literally," Gibbs said, trying desperately to have this make sense.

"At a time when you're living with an explosion of exhibitionism since we all now carry cameras with us at all times, she is a symbol of the way we live."

Ben says love in the limelight has made him feel like a felon

Ben Affleck says being a movie star is about as fun as being a suspected murderer, at least when it comes to love and marriage.

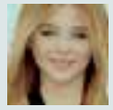
"The crucible by flashbulb," he told Playboy of his relationships with the Jennifers (Lopez and Garner).

"It was magazines then, and those days are more or less gone. Now it's online, but it's the same thing. At the nadir of that I felt I was being treated worse than Scott Peterson, who at least got the benefit of the word alleged when they talked about him."

Twitter

@mindykaling
The secret is if you stay late enough the lakers girls dancing gets sexier and they wear less clothes. They started in baggy verizon tshirts and now they're in like gold and purple string bikinis. It's the best

@tonyhawk
Today I learned that de-icing a plane can take an extraordinarily long time... & the whole idea kinda freaks me out.



@ChloeGMoretz
the best feeling is listening to all i want for christmas is you with someone you love

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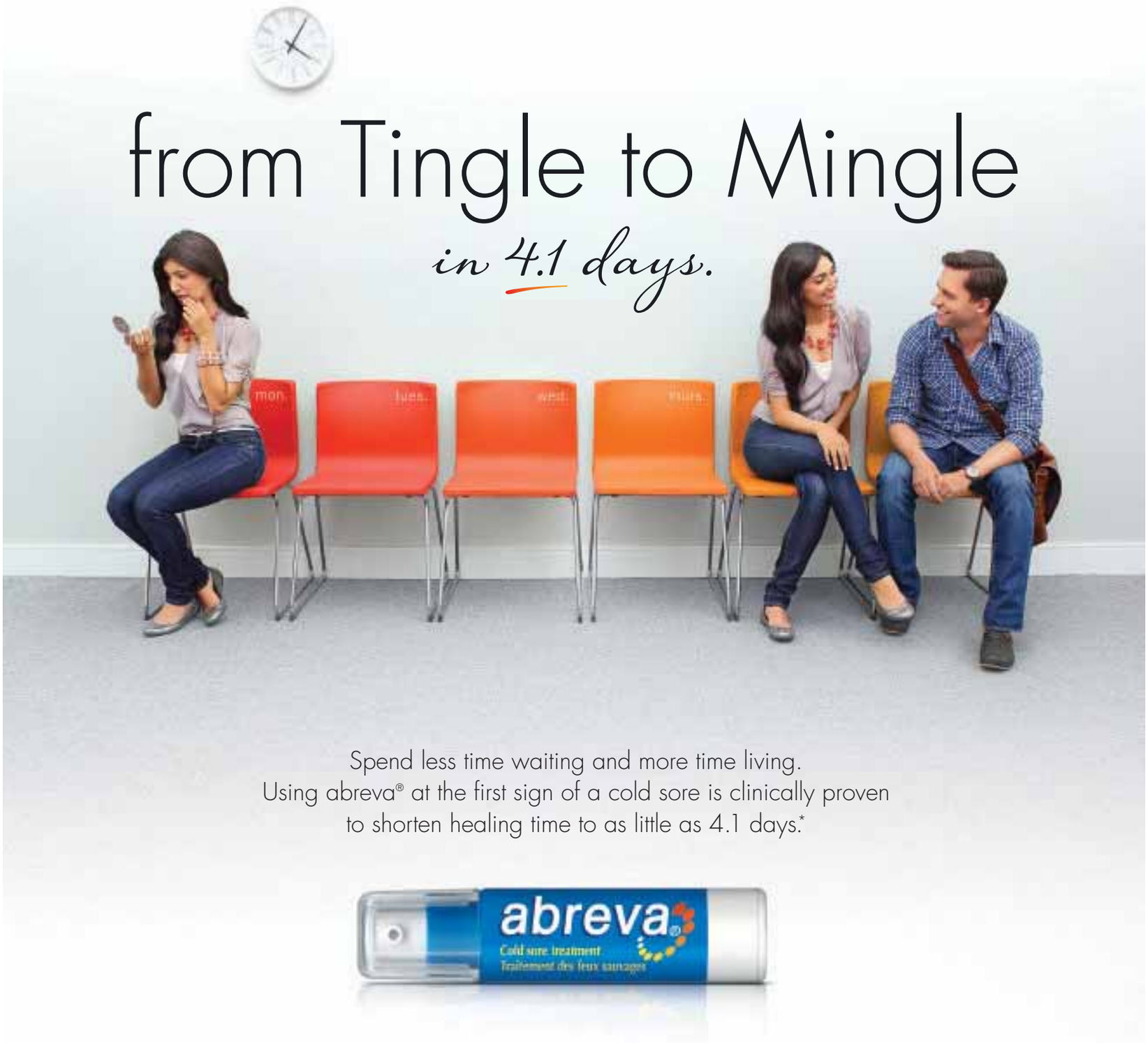

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Keeping pounds off with healthy holiday drinking

Sipping celebrations. The Food Babe weighs in on what to avoid when you're attending those multiple holiday shindigs

ANDREA PARK
Metro World News

Celebrate all you want — just do it responsibly. ISTOCK PHOTOS

Holiday parties are filled with good cheer, friends and of course, plenty of booze. Maybe you're looking for the cocktail or beer that will do the least damage to your body? Activist and blogger Vani Hari, also known as the Food Babe, talked to Metro about how to pick your poison during the holidays.

Beer

You'd be surprised by the "extras" some manufacturers add to your favorite beers. Hari called individual companies to ask for ingredient lists and found that some beers contain ingredients like corn syrup and caramel coloring. Caramel coloring is known to be carcinogenic. It contains a chemical called 4-methylimidazole, which has been linked to cancer in animals. Hari said beer manufacturers use caramel colouring to give the beers a "deep golden brown" colour that is typically achieved by using high quality hops. Newcastle is one brand that uses caramel coloring in its beers.

Hari said some of the mass-produced beers that have corn syrup in their ingredients list include Corona, Miller, Coors, Pabst Blue Ribbon and Red Stripe. Heineken, Amstel and Sierra Nevada are a few popular brands that do not use genetically modified ingredients or other unsavory additives.

Even so, Hari recommended seeking out beers from local microbreweries first.

"Those smaller breweries are generally not using the crazy additives that other companies use to save money or produce faster," she said.

Go easy

Of course, the healthiest way to go is to avoid drinking when possible.

- **A simple solution.** "You don't have to drink at every holiday party," said Hari. "If you have five parties in a week, don't feel like you have to drink at all of them. A club soda with lime on the rocks looks like a vodka tonic so you can blend in."

Wine

Not all wines are created equal. Hari said some wines are produced with poor quality grapes and can include preservatives, additives and sulfites. Sulfites have been linked with allergic reactions and asthma. Hari suggested buying organic wines, which eliminate exposure to pesticides and other additives.

She likes drinking biodynamic wines by Frey and Robert Sinskey. "They take it up another notch by making wines that are biodynamic," said Hari. "You're not just drinking organic wine, but wine that's also environmentally friendly."

Hard alcohol

Again, Hari urged consumers to buy organic hard alcohol, as it's impossible to simply check an ingredients label for additives. "You're also not going to have genetically engineered corn or soy in the organic versions of liquors," said Hari.

Hari said your best bet is to go for the simplest spirits — flavored ones may contain artificial or natural flavors that can include a range of substances, including castoreum, which is sometimes derived from beavers' anal glands.

Agave plants are not sprayed with pesticides as much as other plants, thus agave-derived liquors like 100 per cent agave tequila (Patron is one brand) are "very clean," according to Hari.

As far as navigating cocktails at holiday parties, Hari said it's best to go for unflavored mixers as well, like soda water or 100 per cent juices.

"Stay simple," she said. "Juice is way better for you than Pina Colada or Bloody Mary mix. The holidays are a time to have a good time and let loose, so just minimize the damage by trying to pick the best drinks."

Best Health

Give gifts from the heart this holiday season

BEST HEALTH MINUTE
Bonnie Munday
Editor-in-chief
Best Health Magazine

In the latest issue of Best Health magazine, we rounded up some beautiful and practical gift ideas, all with a healthy twist. Pick up the issue to find a roundup of items that cover all four of our healthy pillars: Look Great, Get Healthy, Eat Well and Embrace Life.

But we also suggest gifts like donating your time and giving to a charitable organization. According to research from the University of Exeter Medical School in the U.K., volunteering can improve mental health and help you live longer.

Here are three charitable gift ideas.

Plan Canada Gifts of Hope Newborn Checkup, $30. This home visit will check in with a mom and newborn within the first three days of birth — a crucial time to ensure that baby is thriving and mom is recovering well. Go to plancanada.ca/gifts for more information on the program.

Toms One For One Program. For every pair of Toms shoes purchased, the company will donate a pair to a child in need.

The company currently donates shoes to people in more than 60 countries. Browse styles and find a retailer near you at toms.ca.

World Vision Christmas Ornament Set (Trio), $85. Give a holiday gift that supports African entrepreneurs. One ornament set includes an African water buffalo, a giraffe and an elephant, all made from wire and beads and handcrafted by Kenyan artisans who received a World Vision micro-loan to start their business. For more information, go to worldvision.ca/gifts.

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Open your heart and wallet. ISTOCK PHOTOS

Frosty the Shortbread Snowman was a very jolly treat

Ingredients

- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) softened unsalted butter
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) icing sugar (plus extra for decorating)
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) vanilla extract
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 750 ml (3 cups) all-purpose flour
- Mini chocolate chips, gum drops, licorice whips, jelly beans, fruit leather, etc.

1. Line 3 rimmed baking sheets with parchment paper.

2. Beat butter with icing sugar, vanilla and salt until fluffy. Add flour and mix well. Chill until easy to handle.

3. Measure level 30 ml (2 tbsp) portions into 8 balls for snowman bases; arrange on prepared baking sheet. Measure level 15 ml (1 tbsp) and 10 ml (2 tsp) portions respectively for 8 bellies and 8 heads of snowmen. Arrange on baking sheets. Chill for 30 minutes.

Easy Icing Sugar Glue

Stir 90 ml (6 tbsp) icing sugar with 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) water. Spoon small dab between balls to assemble snowmen. Use toothpicks to help paste on small items.

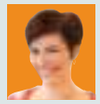
4. Heat oven to 180 C (350 F). In batches, bake largest balls for 18 minutes, medium balls for 15 minutes and smallest balls for 12 minutes or until balls are golden on the bottom and set. Let cool completely.

5. Roll in icing sugar to coat. Create a paste using additional icing sugar and water (see fact box); use to stack and assemble balls into a snowman shape. Decorate as desired with candies. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ GAY LEA FOODS**

This recipe makes eight snow people. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health Solutions

Let the loafing begin



NUTRI-BITES
Theresa Albert
DHN, RNCP
myfriendinfood.com

It is loaf season!

And I do not mean the kind of loaf you do on the sofa. I mean the kind you bake a stack of, wrap up and take to every party as a hostess gift.

Banana loaf can be so ho hum but to add a little ho ho ho, think about stirring in one or some of these ingredients:

- Chopped Medjool dates
- Crushed candy canes
- Chocolate covered espresso beans (placed on top when loaf is half baked)
- Grated zucchini
- Chopped pieces of brie with grated apples
- Cocoa nibs
- Hemp seeds
- Pineapple chunks
- Hot peppers and lime juice (to make a more savoury loaf)

There is no reason the holidays have to be unhealthy or boring. Just a few simple jazzy bits can make all the difference.

Remember to wrap your loaf in plastic and tie it with a pretty ribbon. Everyone likes an edible gift (that they can re-gift and look like a star even though they didn't do a darned thing!).

THERESA ALBERT IS A FOOD COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST AND PRIVATE NUTRITIONIST IN TORONTO. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT ON TWITTER AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM

Doubling the oats makes them breakfast food, right?

Many people would balk at the idea of eating holiday cookies for breakfast, but this recipe might make you reconsider.

These Double-the-Oats Oatmeal Cookies are so jammed with oats — making them tender and wonderfully chewy and rich — that eating them is like enjoying a morning bowl of oatmeal in the form of a cookie.

Feel free to substitute 1 1/2 cups of dark chocolate chips and 1 cup of chopped walnuts for the cherries and pecans.

1. Heat oven to 350 F. Line a baking sheet with kitchen parchment.

2. In bowl, whisk eggs and vanilla until frothy. Add sugars and the oil. Mix until well blended and creamy in appearance.

3. In bowl, whisk flour, baking soda, cinnamon, cardamom and salt. Add to sugar and egg mixture and mix until completely combined. Mix in 2 cups of the oats, then the cherries and pecans. Add remaining 1 1/2 cups of oats and mix well. The batter will be stiff.

4. Working in batches, use teaspoon to drop cookie dough on prepared sheet, leaving 2 inches between cookies. Bake 15 minutes, or until golden brown and soft at the centre. Cool 2 minutes on baking sheet, then use spatula to transfer to rack to cool completely. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ELIZABETH KARMEL, AUTHOR OF SOAKED, SLATHERED AND SEASONED.**

Ingredients

- 2 eggs
- 1 tbsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup dark brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, sifted
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground cardamom
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3 1/2 cups old-fashioned rolled oats (not quick-cooking), divided
- 1 1/3 cups dried cherries
- 1 generous cup pecan halves, coarsely chopped

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Dessert. Original Scottish Shortbread

1. Heat oven to 150 C (300 F).

2. In a bowl, beat butter and sugar until smooth. Gradually add flour, mixing thoroughly after each addition. Knead lightly. Wrap tightly in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1 to 2 hours.

Ingredients

- 250 ml (1 cup) softened butter
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) granulated or fruit sugar
- 625 ml (2 1/2 cups) sifted all-purpose flour

3. On floured surface, roll out dough to about 1/2-inch (1-cm) thickness. Using a cookie cutter or a glass dipped in flour, cut into desired shapes and place on ungreased baking sheet.

4. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown. Immediately transfer to wire racks to cool. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ THE 250 BEST COOKIE RECIPES BY ESTHER BRODY (ROBERTROSE.CA, 2013).**

Having fun at the Xmas work party is a tightrope, need help walking it?

Enjoy! But avoid getting too drunk and making a scene. ISTOCK

Eat more, drink less. Gratitude, discipline, light flirting and being yourself is a great start but always remember it's not just some bar, it's your office

JULIA FURLAN
Metro World News

Sure, the halls are decked and there's an array of festive booze ready to be guzzled, but an office holiday party is a ruse. In fact, "office" matters a lot more than "party" in the grand significance of the event. If you're smart, you can make an office holiday party good for your career (and have a little fun, too).

Karen Elizaga is an executive coach and author of Find Your Sweet Spot: A Guide to Personal and Professional Excellence, and she says that it's important to walk into the holiday bonanza with a certain amount of decorum. "It's certainly a time to celebrate with your colleagues, but it's definitely not a time for payback," she advises. "I tend to think of these parties as a work event, so I go prepared."

Preparedness doesn't mean arriving with a Santa beer helmet or a naughty little elf outfit. A holiday party is an internal networking event, Elizaga says, so she recommends you walk in with a few topics of conversation prepared — and never on an empty stomach. "If you show up well-fed, the chances of you doing something crazy is much less. Watch your alcohol intake."

As the founder of the catering and event planning company Between the Bread, Ricky Eisen may have a different perspective from Elizaga, but her first piece of advice is the same: "Don't drink too much."

She also says there's no classier move than for employees to thank the person who planned the party. And if the tinsel and holly aren't really your style, don't mention it, Eisen says. "Respect the effort of the person who put it together, whether or not it's the kind of party you would throw."

Both experts agree on one thing: It's about the people. "You want people to see your personality. It might not shine through (at work) when you're so focused and serious," Elizaga says. Most importantly, just because you're not shotgunning beers doesn't mean you can't revel in the festive spirit: "Make sure you have fun." she says. Here's some tips to use by the punch bowl ...

Network
"An office party is such a great time to make those connections," Elizaga advises. "Somebody who works outside of your immediate vicinity or who you want to pay special gratitude to because they helped you get something done — it's a really great time to connect."

Be aware of monopolizing people's time
"There may be somebody you want to talk to because you think they can help you professionally, but understand that they want to talk to other people, too. Be cognizant of the time that you're taking," Elizaga reminds revelers.

Say thanks
"If you're attending, make sure you go over to the person who planned it and thank them. I think that goes a huge long way to showing that you have manners and proper etiquette," Eisen suggests.

You can flirt, cautiously
"I think it's perfectly acceptable to make a connection with somebody you've had your eye on at work. But be guided by what's appropriate. This is not some random bar or party you're at. This is your office," Elizaga says.

Dreading those long hours at the mall? It's time to make shopping a teachable moment

Planning. If you let kids help with making lists and doing online research, they can learn lots about budgeting

YOUR MONEY
Alison Griffiths
money@metronews.ca

Talk about humbug! I've never heard so many parents grousing about the holiday season and especially about shopping.

I feel it's my duty to put the sparkle back in the spirit of the holidays. So, instead of dreading hours at the mall, enlist your little darlings to do as much as possible. Allowing them to take the holiday lead offers the best kind of financial literacy teachable moment.

Here's how to set off on the right (and least stressful) foot this season.

The list
Whether it is done via an app or on the back of an envelope, the list is the cornerstone of smart shopping. Children easily get distracted once in the stores; lists keep them focused. Younger children can dress up their lists with a photo of the desired gift next to the person's name. Don't hover, Mom and Dad! Help out with names for their list, then allow them to come up with ideas on their own.

Older kids can use one of the many apps available such as Gift List, My Christmas Shop and Christmas List. They are all well rated and suitable for adolescents through teens. Most keep a running spending total, which is a boon.

The budget
Like macaroni needs cheese, a list needs a budget. Just as children learn language through repetition and context, so they will come to understand they can afford a pair of argyle socks for Grandpa but not an argyle cashmere sweater.

Have older kids do some online price research and surf for coupons and deals. This is the kind of tech challenge most will enjoy.

Encourage homemade gifts for all ages. Again, let them do as much as possible. Kids are natural-born creators.

The shopping
One word — organization. There's still plenty of time. Take two or three shorter shopping trips rather than an all-day marathon. Match the amount spent with what is budgeted. Apps will help with this. Have kids ask for gift receipts, and remember not to micro-manage.

Give children financial responsibility and it won't take long before they help make holiday shopping a more pleasurable experience.

Children are easily distracted in stores, but lists can help keep them focused. ISTOCK

NHL

"I don't plan on being extremely emotional, but I don't know.... I guess I don't rule it out." **Former Flames captain Jarome Iginla,** who plays his first game in Calgary as a Boston Bruin on Tuesday since being traded last spring.

NHL

Knee lands Neal five-game ban

The NHL has suspended Pittsburgh Penguins forward James Neal for five games for kneeing Boston forward Brad Marchand in the head. The incident occurred in the first period of Boston's 3-2 home win over Pittsburgh on Saturday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Penguins' James Neal knees Brad Marchand on Saturday in Boston. GETTY IMAGES

Baseball Hall of Fame

Managing legends Cooperstown bound

Joe Torre, Tony La Russa and Bobby Cox, baseball's winningest managers over the past four decades, were unanimously elected to the Hall of Fame on Monday by the expansion era committee.

Each won more than 2,000 games and was selected on all 16 ballots when the committee met Sunday ahead of baseball's winter meetings.

"Managing against them, you certainly learned things," said Torre, now an executive vice-president for Major League Baseball. "I am honoured to go into the Hall with these two guys."

Induction ceremonies will be held July 27 in Cooperstown, N.Y.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doc decides to ride off into sunset a Blue Jay

MLB. Toronto great tips hat to club that drafted him in official retirement announcement

In the end, Roy Halladay went back to his major-league roots.

Halladay signed a one-day contract with the Toronto Blue Jays on Monday that allows the veteran right-hander to retire as a member of the team with which he broke into the majors and spent the bulk of his distinguished 16-year career.

Halladay made the announcement at a news conference in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., site of the baseball meetings.

"As most people know, I was very lucky to have a lot of people in the organization really develop and help me become the player I was able to become," Halladay said.

"It really turned my career around and it made a big difference in my career and that's why I'm very fortunate to retire as a Blue Jay."

Halladay spent his final four major-league seasons with the Philadelphia Phillies and also went to great lengths to express his gratitude to that organization and its fans.

Halladay was drafted 17th overall by Toronto in 1995 and made his major-league debut three years later as a September call-up.

His first game was unremarkable. In five-innings against Tampa Bay, he gave up three runs and a homer in a 7-5 win. A week later, Halladay went the distance against Detroit. His stat line reads like what Toronto fans would come to expect: Nine innings, eight strikeouts, no walks and just a run allowed in a 2-1 win.

The dominant starter, however, wouldn't emerge until after several ugly seasons. A serviceable season in '99 led to a disastrous 2000 when he finished with a 10.64 ERA.

That was the turning point. Instead of giving up on Halladay, Toronto sent him to single-A Dunedin in '01 to rebuild his mechanics. He was promoted through double- and triple-A until returning to the Blue Jays on July 2.

His first game back was ugly — six runs allowed in two-plus innings of relief against Boston. But Toronto kept him in the majors and he started every game the rest of the season, finishing with a complete-game shutout against Cleveland for a respectable 3.16 ERA.

Halladay never looked back. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two-time Cy Young award winner Roy Halladay announces his retirement after 16 seasons in the major leagues on Monday at the baseball winter meetings in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. JOHN RAOUX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Halladay's Jays numbers

148

Roy Halladay's 148 wins as a Blue Jay sit second behind Dave Stieb.

ERA

3.43

Third in Jays history, just barely behind Stieb and Jimmy Key (tied at 3.42).

Innings pitched

2046.2

Third, behind Stieb and Jim Clancy

Strikeouts

1,495

Second, behind Stieb

WHIP

1.20

Tied for first with Key

Complete games

67

Third, behind Stieb and Clancy

Wins above replacement

51.9

First among all Jays, per Fangraphs.com.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cornish never banked on Lou Marsh honour

2013 Lou Marsh award winner Jon Cornish THE CANADIAN PRESS

No one was more surprised by Jon Cornish capturing the 2013 Lou Marsh award as Canada's top athlete than the Calgary Stampeders running back himself.

Cornish narrowly defeated Milos Raonic, the first Canadian men's singles tennis player to achieve a top-10 world ranking, and Kaillie Humphries, who dominated the women's bobsled circuit this season, for the honour.

"I really didn't know anything was going on, I was just getting ready to go for a day of work," said Cornish, employed as a bank rep in Calgary during the off-season. "But then (Stampeders communications director) Jean Lefebvre called and informed me that I had been selected.... This was a nice little addition to my day."

And in a truly CFL moment, the 29-year-old Cornish spoke to reporters during a conference call while on a break at the bank Monday.

Cornish became just the third Canadian to win the CFL's outstanding player award after rushing for a 1,813 yards.

The native of New Westminster, B.C., also led the league with 2,157 yards from scrimmage and 14 TDs en route to being named the CFL's top Canadian.

He's the first Canadian to win the CFL's top player award since Ottawa Rough Riders tight end Tony Gabriel in 1978 and the first CFL player to claim the Lou Marsh since legendary Ottawa QB Russ Jackson in 1969. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Avoid wishful thinking today. Cosmic activity in areas of your chart that deal with self-deception could lead to silly mistakes. Reality is what it is. There is no need to embellish it or wish it were something different.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Be careful what you say if someone asks for advice. Make sure what you tell them comes from your experience and is not something you picked up from an unreliable source.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You seem to be getting through a lot of work, which is good. But you won't be able to keep up this pace. Think of ways you can ease back a little. You need to stay sharp, both mentally and physically.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You don't lack for confidence or ideas but there is a danger today that you could mislead yourself about the true state of your affairs. Think positive by all means but don't let wishful thinking take a hold on you.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Sit down and have a heart-to-heart talk with someone you care for. A lot has been said and done in recent days, and the time has come to clear the air. Be honest about your feelings.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You are in a carefree mood and should cheer up loved ones who do not share your happy-go-lucky outlook. You can't change the world but you can make people smile.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Can you trust your senses? Most of the time. But today you would be wise to question what your eyes and ears tell you. Are you seeing and hearing what's really there?

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Start something new. Yes, you have failed to follow through so many times in the past but this time will be different. What happened to all those big ideas you had? They're still there.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Your mind may be bubbling with a dozen great ideas but if you try to follow them all, you will get nowhere fast. Decide what is the one aim that means the most to you then put your heart and soul into it.

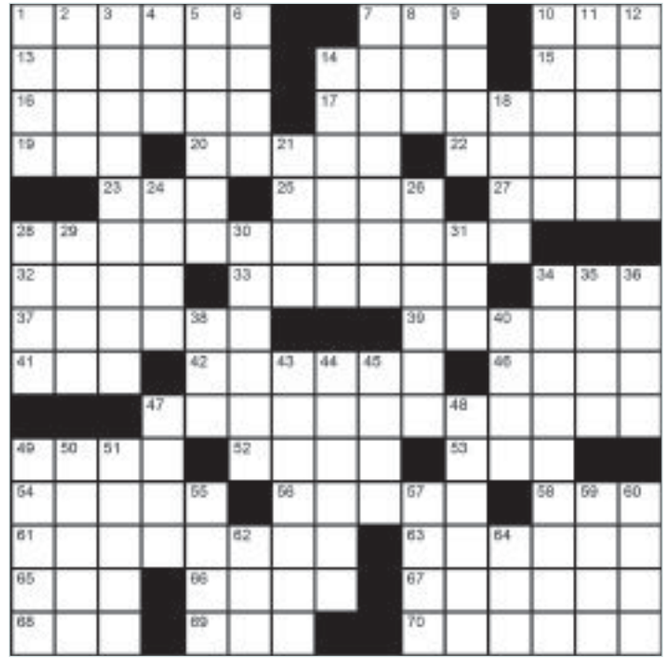
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Make sure you deal only with people who are original today. Some of their ideas may be a little way out for your more traditional tastes but no matter, they will encourage you to try a few creative tricks of your own.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Bring your plans up to date. Sit down with a pen and paper, and write down your top three objectives. Then map out how you are going to get from where you are now to where you want to be.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If you are thinking of taking a trip, that's good, but keep your plans flexible. Last minute changes are more likely than not over the next 24 hours, so be prepared. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

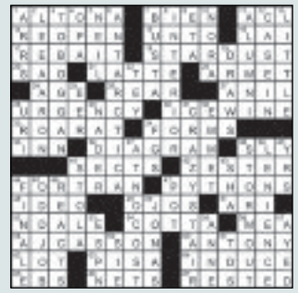
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Return to a place: 2 wds.
7. Wildebeest
10. Ferrell's festive flick
13. "The Middle" star Patricia
14. Pictured
15. Ms. Leoni
16. Use sticky stuff then decide to peel away from it
17. Valley on Vancouver Island; also, a beautiful sweater from there
19. Crop
20. Persist
22. An 'it'
23. Here: French
25. Associations [abbr.]
27. Pretends
28. Lake Manicouagan in Quebec is ring-shaped because it's a what from 215 million years ago?: 2 wds.
32. Car's need
33. Canadian author Mr. Choy
34. "__, _ don't." (Retort to "Yes, you do.")
37. "The ___ Know" by Collective Soul
39. Nice
41. Nav. designation
42. "Clever fellow!": 2 wds.
46. Has to pay
47. Leader of the Green Party of Canada: 2 wds.
49. Gumbo ingredient
52. Pre-midnight, __ _'clock
53. One: Spanish
54. De-crease
56. Repenters
58. Tea, in Tadoussac
61. English folklore hero: 2 wds.
63. Old Testament's Book of __
65. Disney deer
66. Latin hymn: "Dies __"
67. Aviators
68. Actor Mr. Shepard
69. No __ intended
70. __ identity

Down
1. Ra's al __ (Batman foe)
2. Prefix meaning 'Wine'
3. Kilt-wearing musicians
4. Nfld's ocean
5. Daytime talk host Katie
6. Human 'cap' site
7. Hannah __, Canadian singer
8. __ and improved
9. Division
10. Moral principle
11. Resembled the Tower of Pisa
12. Dracula costume must-haves
14. Move along quickly
18. Overdo, as steak
21. __-Cola
24. Ring up
26. Stuff with food
28. "Don't mind __ __ do." (That'd be great for us)
29. Subatomic particle
30. Dusky
31. WSW opposite
34. Mary, on December 25th, way back when: 2 wds.
35. Vitamins brand, __ _ Day
36. __-bitsy
38. Internet hookup letters
40. Mindy of "The Facts of Life"
43. Canada's men's Olympic hockey team GM, Steve __
44. "The Blue __" by Johann Strauss
45. Hautbois
47. Direction
48. Scrap
49. Chose
50. Sweden's money
51. House-selling company
55. Boat
57. Sporty whistle blowers
59. Present
60. Once, poetically
62. South American country, for short
64. __-Tac-Toe

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

8						5	1	
1				9	4		7	
	9							
			3		8	4		
	5	3	6		7	1	8	
		6	9		2			
							5	
	6		8	3				1
	4	2						3

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	4	8	2	9	3	1	7	5
1	5	2	4	7	6	9	3	8
3	9	7	5	1	8	2	4	6
9	8	3	1	6	4	7	5	2
5	1	4	7	2	9	8	6	3
7	2	6	3	8	5	4	9	1
4	6	9	8	3	1	5	2	7
2	3	1	9	5	7	6	8	4
8	7	5	6	4	2	3	1	9

metro
News worth sharing.

flurries
Flurries Sheepskin is looking for 4 full-time Sales Reps to sell shoes and apparel in Market Mall, 2325 Preston Ave, Saskatoon, Sk.
$11.15 per hour plus bonuses and commission.
No experience required
Email resume to flurriessk@gmail.com

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